

REMARKS

The present amendment merely cancels the rejected claims to place the application in condition for allowance. Entry of the present amendment is respectfully requested.

Claims 1 - 3 and 5 - 7 are pending. Claims 4 and 8 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 1 - 3 and 5 - 7 have been allowed. The applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of this application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 4 and 8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Pat. No. 6,747,946 to Kaneko *et al.* Claims 4 and 8 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

In view of the foregoing, the applicants submit that this application is in condition for allowance. A timely notice to that effect is respectfully requested. If questions relating to patentability remain, the examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone.

If there are any problems with the payment of fees, please charge any underpayments and credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 50-1147.

Respectfully submitted,



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